

JEWS

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The Civil War

Jews

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BALTIMORE AND OHIO MAGAZINE

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VOLUME XIII

BALTIMORE, FEBRUARY, 1926

NUMBER 10

Today Abraham Lincoln Would Acclaim These New-made Americans as "Fellow Citizens"

"**T**HADDEUS and I had been playmates from the time we were big enough to run around together. He had been welcome in my home and I in his. We had grown to love each other. We even sat together in school until that awful day when he turned on me and hissed: 'You are unclean—keep away from me.'"

The speaker was a chance acquaintance of mine on the train—a Jew. We had obeyed the mutual impulse of greeting each other as buddies, on sight of the American Legion buttons we both wore, and he had been telling me in a fragmentary way how he happened to become an American. It seemed to me to be the story of the making of a *real* American and—because it is typical of other cases—it is appropriate that it be told when we are again celebrating the birthday of him who has sometimes been called "the first real American," Abraham Lincoln.

Oppenheim, for that was his name, was born in one of those mid-European countries—it matters not which—whose whole history has been stained by the stigma and bloodshed of religious persecution.

"The repulse from my dearest childhood friend," he said, "first disclosed to me the chasm which yawned between Christian and Jew in my unfortunate fatherland. My parents had purposely kept me from knowing that those of our race were despised and persecuted until I came home crying from school after my playmate had shunned me. Then they *had* to tell me, and little by little the persecution of my race was unfolded—the social ostracism, the cruelty of the minor officials of the government, the injustice of the laws.

"Fortunately, my school teacher, though a native Christian, had been educated in Switzerland and had

absorbed advanced ideas of democracy in government and religious toleration. Despite my social handicap, he helped me, was, indeed, kind to me on that account, until during an especially vicious local political attack through taxation on the Jewish merchants, he was compelled to side with the persecutors or lose his position. And the hatreds were so intense that they encompassed even the boys of my race in the school. Further education there was out of the question and although my father offered to send me to a school in Switzerland, I asked him to let me go to America.

"You Americans," he said, as his eyes lighted up, "you don't know what the name of your country means to millions of people the world over who would like to come here. Even before I knew I was a Jew I had thought of America as little children here think of Christmas and Santa Claus. It had been my father's dream for years to come here, but he gave me the chance first."

My companion then told me how he had reached America in 1910, when he was fourteen years old and found a home with his mother's sister in New York. How he had gotten work quickly through his own people and started in at public schools at night, first learning English and then continuing until he had finished high school. How he had become a citizen and voter and, shortly after the United States entered the World War, despite the horror of war that centuries of persecution have implanted in his race, how he had joined the colors and been sent to France.

"Even with my new-found comrades in camp in America," he declared, "there were racial antagonisms. My broken English made me a target for other foreigners. But this unpleasantness disappeared soon

after we got to France and shortly, on account of my knowledge of the English, German, Italian, Polish and French languages, I was placed in the Department of Criminal Investigation. The job was that of a detective, preventing the theft of supplies, and apprehending deserters and criminals among the hodge podge of the races in the fighting zone. It was for capturing a foreign soldier who had killed a civilian that I was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government.

"After my discharge from the army, with the experience of the war and contact with foreign people and customs back of me, I was more determined than ever to bring the rest of my family to America. My father had been all packed to come in 1914, but the war came and stopped him. When, therefore, father, mother, sister and brother finally started, using, much to my pride, my earnings for their passage, you can imagine my joy and excitement.

"With some compatriots of the old country who were also expecting relatives on the same boat, we had hired a small tug to go down the bay to meet them. You have never experienced my feeling—there on the small boat anxiously straining my eyes to catch sight of my people. I tell you when I saw my mother I was ready to die for happiness that minute."

Then he explained how the tug hurried them back to the city, how the immigration officers told him that he could not see his people until they had gone through some of the preliminary examinations, how he had rushed home in a taxi, put on his army uniform, taxied back to the immigration station and got through to his people with flying colors on the strength of his uniform.

His description of his reunion with his family can only be imagined by one who has seen these demonstrative and affectionate people finding their own kin after long separation.

His brother was a babe in arms when Oppenheim left for America. He has been here just six years, and is an honor student in a New York High School and a star player on the school basketball team.

The father's mechanical knowledge has stood him in good stead and he has steady work at good wages.

The sister and one of her own race were married shortly after she came here. The husband is part owner of a small business and is prosperous. That is not to be wondered at, but it is significant, though also characteristic of the people, that husband and wife have attended and are still

attending public night school in New York City.

The mother—well can't you imagine the happiness that fills her being, in seeing her family reunited, prospering materially and with America's unlimited opportunity for intellectual and spiritual development before them!

"Then America," I said, as he was finishing his story, "has truly realized your dreams of what a country should be to its citizens.

"Realized them!" he exclaimed—and he choked with the sense of gratitude that he felt—"Realized them—why it has realized them more than I ever thought any country could. Listen!

"Three years after my sister came here she persuaded her husband to let her go back to the old country.

She wanted to see my mother's four sisters who still live in the town in which we were born and who cannot come here now on account of the new immigration laws. And," he remarked in passing, "much as we would love to have them come here, as they wish, we realize that this country cannot, in fairness to itself, throw open its doors to unrestricted immigration.

"Well, my sister went back home. She was to stay for six months but in just about six weeks she wrote that she was coming back. She had been able to arrange to have my mother's sisters go with some of their men folk to Palestine, to the country that is being made ready for the Jews there. That done she couldn't get back fast enough.

"We met her at the boat. It was summer time and in honor of her returning we had a family picnic in one of the public parks near our home. When she got out of the taxi she ran out on the grass, fell on her knees and kissed the ground, exclaiming that she never wanted again to leave America. That's what America meant to her and that expresses what it means to all of us."

Abraham Lincoln, who, because of his poverty and environment, was denied a common school education, but who through travail and trial became one of the best educated—the most learned in some ways—men of his time, would be glad to call these foreign-born people, thirsting for education, "fellow citizens."

Yes, and he would also acclaim their other characteristics—their industry, patience, thrift, toleration, love of kin and loyalty to their adopted motherland—as cardinal virtues of true Americanism.

Great Expectations

"FOR years it has been the habit to expect transportation to take up any slack in the economic situation. If the farmers were not prosperous, the first proposal for relief has always been to cut railroad rates. The actual cost of the service given, the rise of wages, the rise of material costs, the increase of taxes, were little considered. Business has been almost equally unreasonable. Yet men and women who invest in railroads have the same right to a fair return as those who invest in land or manufacturing or commerce."

—Chicago "Tribune"



A. L.—"Right on the hick."

G. W.—"You're right, you see I was going by the sun."

THE NATIONAL LIMITED

April 26, 1925 to January 27, 1926

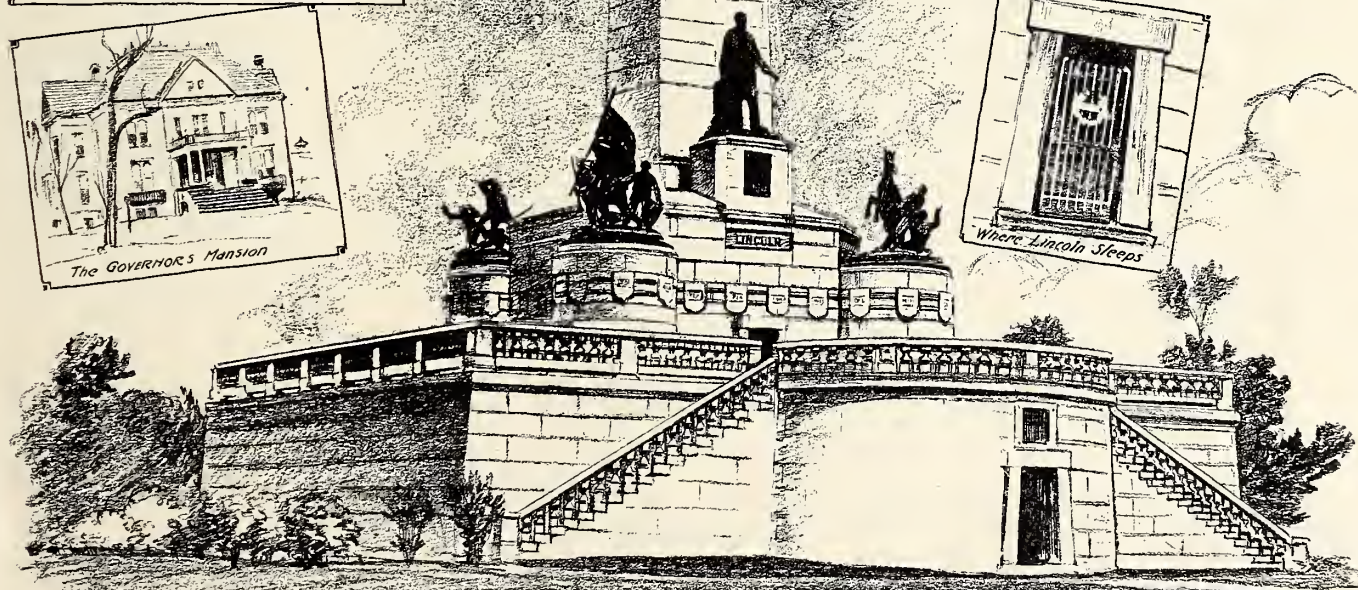
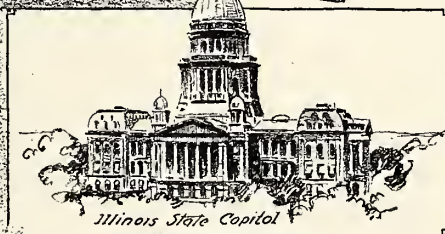
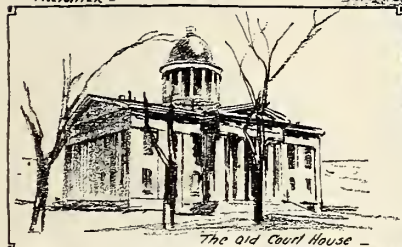
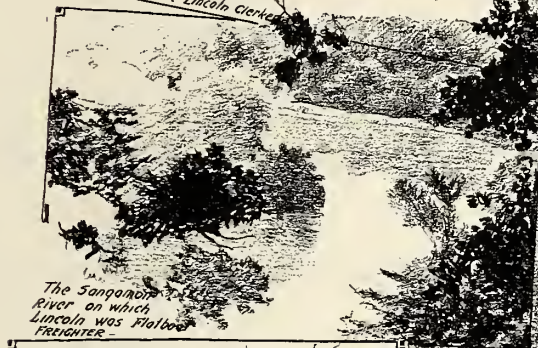
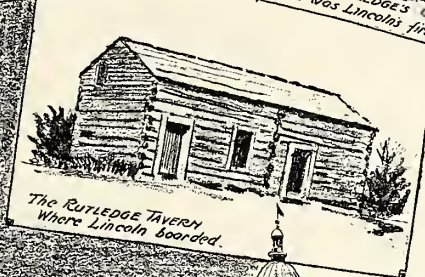
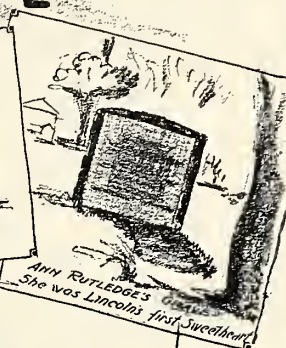
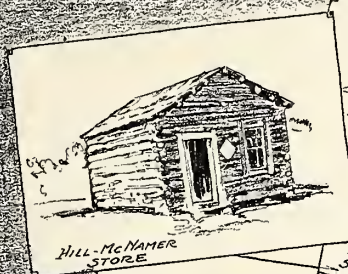
Number of trips 554 } 98.5 %
On time 546 } On Time

THE CAPITOL LIMITED

May 13, 1923 to January 29, 1926

Number of trips 1980 } 95.6 %
On time 1893 } On Time

Springfield, the Home Beloved of Lincoln



Drawings by C.H. Dickson
from Photos by HERBERT GEORGE
in Springfield

"With Malice Toward None"

A Ten Strike

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Freddie: "Father, can you sign your name with your eyes shut?"

Father: "Certainly."

Freddie: "Well, then, please shut your eyes and sign my report card."

—Carpenter Steel News

Deborah, age four, was telling Nancy, about the same age, that she had been baptized and, traditionally curiously, asked: "Nancy, have you been baptized?"

"No," said Nancy, "but I have had my tonsils out!"—Carpenter Steel News

"What'd you get for your birthday?"

"Well, have you seen those new, long, racy Cadillacs?"

"Yeah."

"Well, I got a roller-skate."

—Atlantic Seal

Little Joan (dreamily): "Don't you wish you was a bird, Jimmy, and could fly 'way up in the sky?"

Jim (scornfully): "No. I'd rather be an elephant and squirt water through my nose."—Atlantic Seal

"We are in a pickle," said a man in a crowd.

"A regular jam," murmured another.

"Heaven preserve us," exclaimed a lady.

—Exchange

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J. M. James actually made \$120 in just one day with the amazing little device which makes practically any car give double its regular mileage a gallon. Vernon Gaines netted \$94 in eight hours. With this astounding new invention many cars go 37 to 57 miles and even 60 miles on a gallon. The demand is enormous—you can make \$250 to \$600 a month in spare or full time. And now the inventor will send you a sample at his own risk. Write to J. A. Stransky, 2490 Stransky Bldg., Pukwana, So. Dak.



"Is Kirker thrifty?"
"He thinks he is. He has just paid twenty thousand dollars for a dirigible so he can see all the ball games free."
—The American Legion Weekly

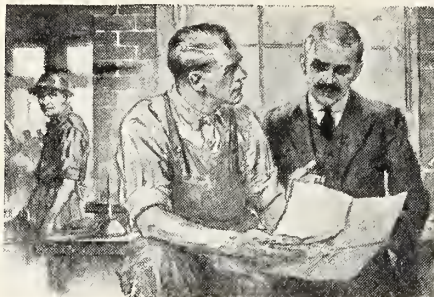
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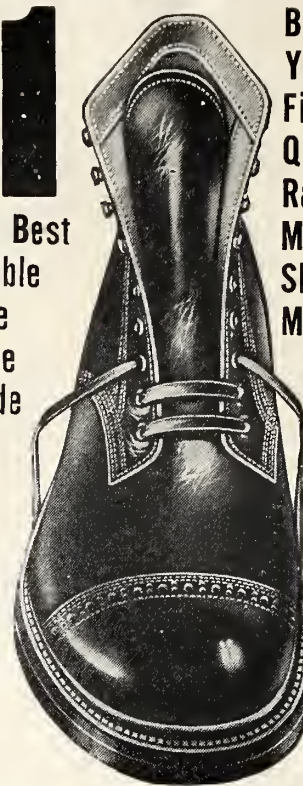
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Lincoln Lore

May, 1979

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
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Number 1695

LINCOLN AND WASHBURNE

Though historians have praised President Lincoln's skilled handling of Congress, their discussions of the subject are usually confined to the Cabinet crisis of 1862 and to his abilities to handle difficult personalities like Charles Sumner's. The President's relations with the House of Representatives have been little explored. The tendency to think of Lincoln as a "Whig in the White House," to borrow the language of David Donald's famous essay on Lincoln's theory of the Presidency, reinforces the lack of interest in this question. The Whig theory of the Presidency, after all, dictated that the President simply enforce the will of Congress, use the veto sparingly, and — as Lincoln explained the theory in the election of 1848 — not even force a party platform on the country. A President following such a policy would not "handle" Congress at all. The best student of the Civil War Congress, Leonard P. Curry, concludes that Congress made considerable inroads on executive power during Lincoln's Presidency, though there was nothing like the achievement of Congressional dominance that would come in the Johnson years that followed the Civil War.

Whether this view of the decline of executive power *vis-a-vis* Congress in the Civil War years is true or not, its effect has been to stifle curiosity about Lincoln's friends in Congress. He did have friends there, and two notable examples were Isaac N. Arnold and Elihu B. Washburne. Arnold was not only a great partisan of Lincoln's cause but also an early Lincoln biographer. Yet it is almost impossible to find published material on this Illinois Congressman.

Elihu B. Washburne, if he had a less direct relationship with Lincoln than Arnold, had a longer and more significant career in Congress, and he was close enough to President Lincoln to merit considerable attention.

Washburne was born in Maine in 1816. He was named Elihu Benjamin Washburn but added an "e" to his last name in order to revert to what he thought was the proper spelling of the name among his English ancestors. This has caused some confusion because he had two brothers, Cadwallader and Israel Washburn, who also became prominent in American politics. Although they did not spell their last names identically, these three brothers became a powerful force in American politics. In fact, the Wash-

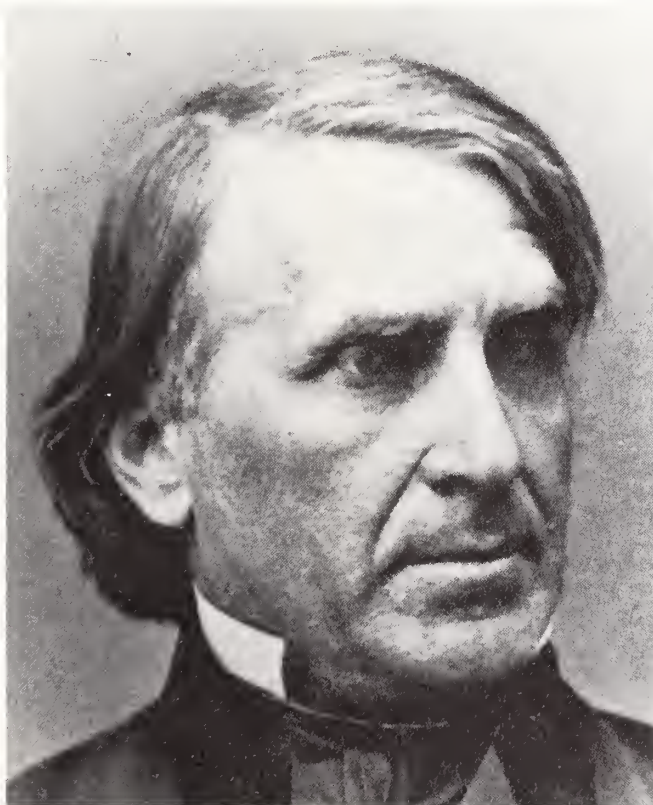
burns hold the distinction of being the only family to have three brothers in the same Congress representing three different states.

After various attempts to find a career, Washburne attended the Harvard Law School, became a member of the Massachusetts bar, and moved to the Illinois lead-mining boomtown of Galena in 1840. A Henry Clay Whig, Washburne met Lincoln the very year he moved to Galena. It was the year of the great log cabin campaign for William Henry Harrison. Their closest association, however, came at the time of the formation of the Republican party and after.

Washburne was elected to the first of eight consecutive terms in the United States House of Representatives in 1852. He was then still a Whig, but he was among the earliest converts to the Republican cause. As early as November of 1854, he could boast to Lincoln that every representative and senator sent to the state legislature from his northern Illinois district was a Republican, and this was almost two years before Lincoln would embrace that new party label. Washburne shared with Lincoln an animosity to the Know-Nothing party, which was at the time the principal competitor of the

Republicans for anti-Democratic voters. In 1854, for example, he helped carry an amendment to the homestead law which allowed those aliens who had declared their intention to become American citizens to acquire public lands in the same way full-fledged citizens did.

Washburne was a staunch supporter of Lincoln's drive to win a seat in the United States Senate in 1855. He and his friends saw every member of the state legislature from his district (the state legislatures still chose the United States Senators), and he told Lincoln how each man was leaning. He warned the candidate: "We are pretty ultra on the slave question . . . , and you will have to take pretty high ground." Washburne worked to gain Free Soil support for Lincoln. He suggested that Lincoln write a letter describing his positions on the restoration of the Missouri Compromise, the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, the admission of new slave states, and other aspects of the great slavery question which Washburne thought would override all others. He offered to show the letter to Salmon Chase and to get Chase to write Free Soilers in Illinois



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. Elihu B. Washburne.

on Lincoln's behalf. Washburne himself saw Joshua Giddings, found him to be Lincoln's "strongest possible friend," and reported Giddings's willingness to "walk clear to Illinois to elect" Lincoln. Giddings wrote Illinois's most successful radical antislavery politician, Owen Lovejoy, twice to urge support for Lincoln's candidacy.

Washburne was an experienced politician, and, when he saw trouble brewing, he reported it. He told Lincoln of one influential friend in his district who opposed Lincoln's candidacy because Springfield's political influence had always been used against the interests of the northern part of the state. Thus an astonished Lincoln had to deal with the perennial sectionalism that plagued Illinois politics. "For a Senator to be the impartial representative of his whole State," Lincoln thundered in his reply, "is so plain a duty, that I pledge myself to the observance of it without hesitation; but not without some mortification that any one should suspect me of an inclination to the contrary." For eight years a Representative of Sangamon County in the legislature, Lincoln, "in a conflict of interests between that and other counties," would have felt a "duty to stick to Old Sangamon," but he could not recall any such conflict with members from the northern part of the state. He could recollect only "co-operating on measures of policy." The Illinois-Michigan Canal "was then the great Northern measure, and it, from first to last, had our votes as readily as the votes of the North itself."

Washburne had the politician's gift for turning a man's trouble to party advantage. One member of the legislature, Wait Talcott, was "in the biggest kind of a lawsuit for an alleged infringement of a patent." Washburne advised Talcott's agent to seek Lincoln's services in the case. If Talcott did so, Washburne was sure it would "be a good pull on him" to support Lincoln for Senator.

Washburne's and Lincoln's efforts failed in 1855, of course, and in 1858, when Lincoln tried again to reach the Senate, Washburne was again in Lincoln's camp. But now there was a complicating factor. Although Washburne was an early and dedicated Republican, he felt keenly that the party was "not so large but what it will hold a few more." He supported Lincoln's candidacy, but he had expressed a hope that Senator Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's opponent, might become a Republican. Douglas had broken with the Democratic Buchanan administration over Kansas policy, and Washburne for a time thought the break decisive for Douglas's future loyalties. Lincoln, on the other hand, was nervous about talk from Eastern Republicans that the party in Illinois ought to let Douglas retain his seat unopposed. He did not trust Douglas, and this strategy would squeeze Lincoln out of any hopes for a Senate seat. Rumors of Washburne's shaky position on the Senate contest made Lincoln's supporters anxious. On April 28, 1858, Washburne told William Herndon that he could not "see the wisdom of abusing" Douglas, "as matters stand now." Four days later he was writing Lincoln much the same thing, explaining, though, that he "had no idea of making him Senator or making him a leader." As for the "idea . . . industriously circulated in our State, that the republicans outside the State were wanting to sell us out in Illinois," Washburne assured Lincoln from his Washington vantage point that "such stuff ought not to be believed for a moment." On May 15th Lincoln expressed himself as "quite satisfied" that Washburne had done no wrong. He was willing "that the matter may drop." By May 31st Washburne was reporting that Douglas had "ceased associating with our folks, but is very thick with the other side. He is understood to repudiate all sympathy with republicans and desires no support from them."

Washburne found Lincoln's Presidential nomination in 1860 "so unexpected we could hardly believe it," but, as a member of the Republican Executive Congressional Committee for the campaign, he promised to "devote my whole soul and energies to the campaign." Interestingly enough, he reported that Stephen Douglas thought the choice of Lincoln "the strongest that could have been made." Like many others, Congressman Washburne immediately advised the candidate to "keep very quiet and out of the way as much as possible."

Washburne's residence in the Capital made him an especially valuable reporter for Lincoln. In May he informed the candidate that "Pennsylvanians of American [i.e., Know-Nothing] proclivities are some what troubled" by the planks in the Republican platform which affirmed the rights of immigrants. They had appealed to Washburne to suggest that

Lincoln's letter accepting the nomination "say nothing about the platform, so they can support you without committing themselves to those planks." Washburne asserted that "*we must have*" the American element in that state; he thought the request "worth considering." Lincoln ignored the advice.

In Congress, Washburne was more a doer than an orator, but on May 29th he delivered a speech, later widely reprinted as *Abraham Lincoln, His Personal History and Public Record*. Washburne admitted that it "was hastily got up," but he thought it "necessary . . . that your record while in Congress should be brought out in answer to the misrepresentations already made." A full page of the eight-page pamphlet explained that Lincoln voted in favor of supplies and land bounties for soldiers even though he opposed the Mexican War. The Republican Congressional Committee printed the speech and made it available for fifty cents per hundred. Copies of it were among the 40,000 speeches and documents (on the average) which the Committee distributed at the height of the campaign in the fall (the documents were franked by the Congress's free-mailing privilege, a form of Federal funding of election campaigns in Lincoln's day). The Committee was inexhaustible in its attentions to voters. One of Washburne's letters introduced Lincoln to one H.P. Scholte, an Iowan of Dutch descent, who had been in Washington translating Republican campaign materials into Dutch.

As election day approached, Washburne, who adhered to the philosophy that "there is no telling who will be governor

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, His Personal History and Public Record.

SPEECH

OF

HON. E. B. WASHBURNE, OF ILLINOIS.

Delivered in the U. S. House of Representatives, May 29, 1860.

The House being in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union—

MR. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, said:
MR. CHAIRMAN: The Republican party, through its proper organization, has placed in nomination for President of the United States, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois. The people, who will be called upon to pass upon that nomination, have a right to inquire into the life, the character, and the political opinions, of the man who is commended to their suffrages for the highest office in their gift. The State which I in part represent on this floor, having been honored by this nomination, I come here to-day to speak of the personal and political history of the candidate. I have known Mr. Lincoln well for twenty years. I have known him in private life, I have known him at the bar, and have been associated with him in every political contest in our State since the advent of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," in 1840. While I may speak with the accents of a strong personal friendship, I shall speak with the frankness of conscious truth, and, I trust, without exaggeration.

Springing from the humblest ranks in life, and unaided by the adventitious supports of family or wealth, Mr. Lincoln has reached his present exalted position by the strength of his will, the power of his intellect, and the honesty of his heart. He was born in Hardin county, Kentucky, February 12, 1808; his family removed to Spencer county, Indiana, in 1816, where he passed his boyhood amid the roughest hardships and the most trying experiences of a frontier life. Without schools, and almost without books, he spent his time amid the wild and romantic scenes of the border, alleviating the hard labors of the farm by the sport of the huntman. Of fine physical development, with a vigorous intellect, quick intelligence, ready wit, and genial character, he gave early evidences of the superiority he has since attained. His first advent into the great world, from the comparative seclusion of his frontier home, was down the Wabash and

Ohio rivers in charge of a flat-boat, of a class known to all the old river men of the West as "*broad-horns*." These boats, laden with the productions of the farmers, floated down stream until a market was found for the cargo; and when that was disposed of, the boat itself was sold, and those in charge made their way back, in the best manner they could, to their homes. A great many persons have heard Mr. Lincoln relate, with inimitable effect, the anecdotes of his experience of that portion of his life.

In 1830, Mr. Lincoln emigrated to that State, with which his great name has now become historically connected. He passed the first year in Macon county, and actively labored on a farm, where he had a fellow-laborer, by the name of John Hanks, *quite three thousand miles*. This portion of the history of Mr. Lincoln's life gave rise to the incident in the late Republican State Convention at Decatur, in Macon county, which awakened the intensest enthusiasm of that vast concourse of citizens from all parts of the State. Mr. Lincoln was present as a spectator in that Convention, and was invited to take a seat upon the platform. When he had taken his seat, it was announced to the Convention that John Hanks, an old Democrat, who had grown gray in the service of that party, desired to make a contribution to the Convention; and the offer being accepted, forthwith two old-time fence rails, decorated with flags and streamers, were borne through the crowd into the Convention, bearing the inscription:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
THE FREE CANDIDATE
FOR PRESIDENT IN 1860.

Two rails from a lot of 2,000 made in 1830 by John Hanks and Abe Lincoln.

The effect was electrical. One spontaneous burst of applause went up from all parts of the "wigwam." Of course, Mr. Lincoln was called out, and made an explanation of the matter. He

PUBLISHED BY THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. PRICE 50 CENTS PER HUNDRED.

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FIGURE 2. This Dutch translation of Lincoln's Cooper Institute Address, perhaps the work of F. P. Scholte, was an 1860 campaign document. It is the only Dutch title listed for 1860 in Jay Monaghan's *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939*.

Start bill May 16 1903 NO 1

De Republikeinsche Party verdedigd enz.

REDEVOERING

VAN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

IN HET COOPER INSTITUUT. FEBRUARY 27, 1860.

MR. PRESIDENT EN MEDEGEVOERD VAN NEW YORK:

De daadzaken waarmee ik my dezes avond zal bezig houden zijn meestal out en bekend, ook is er niets nieuws in het gebruik dat ik er van zal maken. Indien er eenige nieuwheid in is, het zal zijn de manier om de daadzaken te voorstellen, en de gevolgtrekkingen en opmerkingen die uit deze voorstelling voortvloeien.

Senator Douglas zeide, in zyne redevoering laatste herfst, te Columbus, in Ohio, als nagegeven in de "Nieuw York Times."

"Onze vaders, toen zy het Gouvernement vormden waaronder wy leven, verstonen dit vraagstuk juist zoo goed, en zelfs beter als wy tegenwoordig doen."

Ik stem dit ten volle toe, en neem het aan als een text voor deze redevoering. Ik doe dit omdat het een juist en door beiden erkend aanvangpunt levert voor eene verhandeling der Republikeinen en die vleugel van de Democratie aangevoerd door Senator Douglas. Het laat eenvoudig het onderzoek over: "Hoe versonden die vaders het verneemde vraagstuk?"

Wat is het grondwerk van het Gouvernement waaronder wy leven? Het antwoord moet zijn: "De Constitutie der Vereenigde Staten." Die Constitutie bestaat uit de oorspronkelijke, opgesteld in 1787 (en waaronder het tegenwoordige Gouvernement het eerst in werking trad), en twaalf daarna gemaakte verbeteringen, waarvan de tien eerste gemaakt werden in 1789.

Wie waren onze vaders die de Constitutie maakten? Ik veronderstel de 39 die het oorspronkelijke stuk tekendoo moogen met regt onze vaders genoemd worden die dat geestes van ons tegenwoordig Gouvernement ontwierpen. Het is volkomen waar niet alleen dat zy getrouw vertegenwoordigden het denkbeeld en gevoel van het gehele volk ter dier tyd. Hunne algemeen bekende namen behooren nu niet te worden herhaald. Ik neem dan deze 39 voor het tegenwoordig ge als onze vaders die het Gouvernement ontworpen waaronder wy nu leven. Wat is nu het vraagstuk het welk volgens de text, deze vaders juist zoo goed, en zelfs beter versonden, dan wy nu doen?

Het is dit: Verkeed eene juiste verdeling tusschen plaatselyk en federaal gezag, ofsets in de Constitutie aan ons Gouvernement het beheer in betrekking tot Slaverny in ons Federaal Grondgebied?

Hierop antwoordt Douglas hevestigend en de Republikeinen ontkennend. Dit vormt het verschil, en dit verschil, dit vraagstuk, is juist dat geene wat de text verklaard dat onze

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FIGURE 3. Washburne's campaign speech for Lincoln.

till after the election," was not overconfident, but he warned Lincoln that he would be "utterly overrun" with office-seekers if he won. And the Illinois Congressman, though "reluctant to be among . . . the crowd," did say that he would like to see Lincoln too. He did so on November 12th and "found Old Abe in fine spirits and excellent health, and quite undisturbed by the blusterings of the disunionists and traitors." When he returned to Washington, Washburne found that "secession feeling has assumed proportions of which I had but a faint conception," and he told Lincoln that "our friends generally in the west are not fully apprised of the imminent peril which now environs us." Washburne expressed Congress's feelings for "conciliation but firmness" and called for "masterly inactivity."

Washburne's hopes rose and fell, but, in general, he sensed that real trouble was brewing. Having had some acquaintance with Winfield Scott when he was the Whig candidate for President in 1852, Washburne was now able to see the old general in Washington and keep Lincoln, who was still in Springfield, in touch with the crisis over Federal forts in the South and later with the security measures for the city and Lincoln's inauguration. He gave Lincoln advice: not to compromise on the platform, to procure a private secretary who would not sell his influence and who knew etiquette and French, and to stay in a private residence in Washington before the inauguration. He opposed Simon Cameron's appointment to the Cabinet vigorously.

Early in January, Washburne became alarmed about a conspiracy to seize the Capital and prevent the inauguration. With William Seward and two other members of Congress, Washburne employed two New York detectives to investigate the rumors of conspiracies. He referred to them in later letters as "our friends from N.Y.," and expressed great fears about

the state of opinion in Baltimore. Washburne's fears calmed late in January but rose again early in February. He was in the end the only man on the platform when Lincoln came into Washington secretly for his inauguration.

Unfortunately for the historian, once Washburne and Lincoln were together in Washington, the correspondence between them decreased in frequency and importance. They no longer had to discuss political matters by mail. As a Congressman, Washburne became the particular champion of fellow Galena townsman Ulysses S. Grant. He saw to everything for General Grant's career from military promotions to the coining of celebratory medals. His loyalty knew no limits. When Grant issued his infamous Order No. 11 banning "Jews, as a class" from the Department of the Tennessee late in 1862, Lincoln eventually received so many protests that he revoked it. Washburne protested Lincoln's revocation, saying that he considered "it the wisest order yet made by a military Command." For a period in 1863, Washburne accompanied Grant on campaigns and gave a wonderful portrait of that colorful and dedicated soldier. His "entire baggage consists of a tooth brush," Washburne said. A thirteen-year-old boy carried the general's sword. He had no servant, no blanket, no overcoat, and no clean shirt.

In Congress, Washburne loyally supported the administration's war effort. His view of the task was simple. As he expressed it after the Battle of Bull Run, "We will whip the traitors yet. Their barbarities towards our wounded will arouse a spirit of vengeance which will not be appeased till their leaders are all hung and their followers are driven into the gulf." He voted with the more zealous Republicans and was a tough man in a floor battle. When Congressmen debated the bill to emancipate slaves in the District of Columbia in the spring of 1862, Washburne knew who had the votes to win: "If gentlemen of the other side offer amendments, let us hear them, and then vote them down." Like fellow Illinois Congressman Isaac Arnold, Washburne was



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FIGURE 4. Washburne's favorite general, U. S. Grant.

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an ardent supporter of the bill to make the old Illinois and Michigan Canal of Whig days a ship canal connecting the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

Washburne was among the earliest to seek Lincoln's commitment to run for reelection, asking him to "let some of your confidential friends know your wishes" as early as October of 1863. He was a member of the Union Executive Congressional Committee for the campaign and once again franked thousands of speeches and documents. He even assessed Lincoln's Cabinet members \$250 each for the circulation of documents. He became quite alarmed at the state of opinion in his home state and repeatedly pleaded with the President to furlough Illinois soldiers to vote in the election. He acted as an intermediary with Grant when Lincoln wished to use a letter from Grant for campaign purposes. The general replied to Washburne's inquiry that Lincoln could use "anything I have ever written to him as he sees fit," but added: "I think however for him to attempt to answer all the charges the opposition will bring against him will belike setting a maiden to work to prove her chastity."

Like others of Lincoln's friends in Congress, Washburne is a figure badly in need of a biography. The sketch of his career here is suggestive of his importance and of the illumination such a biography would bring to our understanding of the Sixteenth President.

Editor's Note: This article is based on the following letters from Washburne to Lincoln in the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress: December 19, 1854; December 26, 1854; January 17, 1855; May 2, 1858; May 31, 1858; May 19, 1860; May 20, 1860; May 30, 1860; December 9, 1860; January 6, 1863; and May 1, 1863. Grant's letter to Washburne about Lincoln's use of his letters is also in that collection (September 21, 1864).

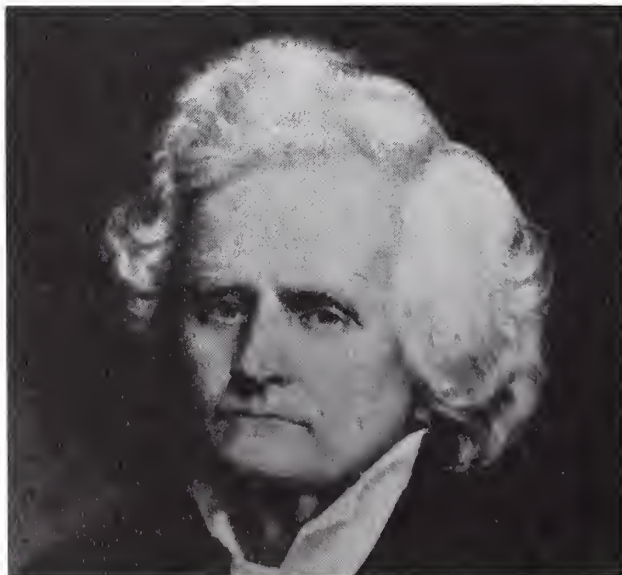
LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHED DEBATES: STEPHEN T. LOGAN COPY

Many would say that this, the sixth article in a series on the presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois*, should have been the first. The copy presented to the "Hon. S.T. Logan, From his friend A. Lincoln" is the only known copy signed in ink. Harry Pratt, who published the first survey of these famous books in *Manuscripts* in the summer of 1954, and Charles Hamilton, the famous manuscript dealer, believed that this was very likely the first copy Lincoln gave away. Their theory was that Lincoln discovered when he signed this book that the soft paper caused the ink to smear and thereafter inscribed the copies in pencil.

FIGURE 5. Washburne's committee franked speeches on this list by the thousands in 1864. Washburne did not include a speech of his own on the list, but other members of the committee did. The committee sent circulars and speeches to Republican groups. On the backs of the speeches, they advertised other available speeches. One of these lists is pictured here.

Stephen Trigg Logan was Lincoln's second law partner and a lifelong friend. Of those who received the known presentation copies, Logan was by far the most closely associated with Lincoln. If he gave copies to David Davis or to John G. Nicolay, for example, they have never come to light.

The Logan copy was in the hands of the Logan family until 1946. Logan's great-granddaughter, Martha Coleman Bray, received the book at the death of her father. He was Christopher Bush Coleman, the son of Lewis Harrison Coleman, who married Stephen T. Logan's daughter Jennie. She sold it to William H. Townsend, a noted Lincoln collector and author from Lexington, Kentucky. Townsend at one time owned two presentation copies of the *Debates*, the Logan copy and the copy given to Job Fletcher. In 1953 he sold the Fletcher copy to the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, which in turn sold it to Lincoln collector Justin G. Turner of Hollywood, California. Sometime later, Turner also acquired Townsend's other copy. In 1968 Victor B. Levit purchased the Logan copy from a sale of Turner's collection at a Charles Hamilton Autographs, Inc., auction. Mr. Levit of the law firm of Long & Levit in San Francisco still owns the Logan copy and very kindly sent me much of the information on which this article is based.



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FIGURE 6. Stephen T. Logan.

Lincoln gave rabbis place on battlefield

HERB GEDULD Freelance Writer

A few months ago, a brief news item in the Plain Dealer indicated that the first American Army chaplain of the Moslem faith had been appointed. This marked the second time in our country's history that a non-Christian faith had one of its clergy commissioned as a chaplain. The first was a Jewish chaplain. He was not appointed until the Civil War, and it took a bitter battle, the efforts of President Abraham Lincoln, and an act of Congress to accomplish this.

Until the Civil War, in fact, all American Army chaplains were Protestant. Although Catholic priests had served in a civilian capacity during the Mexican-American War, they, too, were not explicitly granted

It took a bitter battle, the efforts of President Lincoln and an act of Congress.

the right to serve as Army chaplains until the Civil War. An act of Congress, approved on July 22, 1861, provided that: "the chaplain appointed ... must be a regular ordained minister of the Christian denomination."

The one congressman who vigorously opposed this law and tried to amend it was Clement L. Vallandigham of Lisbon, Ohio. Vallandigham, who was to become a Southern supporter during the Civil War, wanted the words "religious society" substituted for "Christian denomination." Without any prompting from Jewish sources, he spoke out in defense of Jewish rights and denounced the implication inherent in the bill that America is a Christian country. Vallandigham's amendment was overwhelmingly defeated.

Three months later, at the beginning of the Civil War, a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) field worker visiting a Pennsylvania regiment was "horrified" to discover that a Jew, Michael Allen of Philadelphia, was serving as regimental chaplain to the largely Jewish 65th Regiment recruited under Colonel Max Friedman. The YMCA man raised such a fuss in the public press that the assistant adjutant general of the Army wrote the Pennsylvania regiment requesting Allen's dismissal, and Allen was forced to resign.



Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we celebrate tomorrow (Sat.), was the first president to appoint a Jewish chaplain to the U.S. military.

American Jewry, confronted with this first instance of outright religious discrimination, reacted vigorously. Led by Cincinnati's Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the Board of Delegates of American Israelites began an intensive petition campaign to Congress to redress this unfair legislation. Petitions were received from all over America. In Bangor, Maine, for instance, which had only three Jewish residents, over 200 Christian townsmen signed the protest petitions.

With the approval of Col. Friedman, the Board of Delegates also appointed the Rev. Arnold Fischel of New York's Shearith Israel Synagogue as the Pennsylvania regiment's new chaplain-designate. Armed with his temporary credentials and documents, Fischel journeyed to Washington to present the argument for the appointment of a Jewish chaplain to the man who mattered most, President Abraham Lincoln.

Despite his overburdened schedule relating to the war, Lincoln received Fischel immediately and courteously. He listened to Fischel's presentation and promised to get back to him. Two days later, Fischel received the following letter from the president:

Executive Mansion
Dec. 13, 1861

Rev. Dr. A. Fischel

My dear Sir:

I find there are several particulars in which the present law in regard to chaplains is supposed to be deficient, all of which I now design presenting to the appropriate committee of Congress. I shall try to have a new law broad enough to cover what is desired by you in behalf of the Israelites.

Yours truly,
A. Lincoln

Congress did not move as fast as the president. It took over six months until both Houses of Congress revised the Chaplaincy Act permitting Jews to serve as chaplains. Dr. Fischel never got his appointment. He was recalled from Washington in April of 1862 when the Board of Delegates ran out of funds to keep him there. Disillusioned by the penury of American Jewry, Rev. Fischel returned to his native Holland and lapsed into obscurity.

On Sept. 18, 1862, President Lincoln signed the commission of Rev. Jacob Frankel, the 54-year-old minister of Philadelphia's Rodeph Shalom Congregation as the first American rabbi appointed a military chaplain. Rev. Frankel served for three years as hospital chaplain in the Philadelphia area.

The first Jewish regimental chaplain was Rev. Ferdinand Sarner of the 54th New York Volunteer Infantry. During his year-and-a-half of active duty, Sarner saw action at Chancellorsville and at the invasion of South Carolina. Sarner was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg and, as a result of his wounds, was discharged from the Army for physical disability. A New York Jewish paper, The Jewish Record, wrote that "Dr. Sarner is probably the first rabbi who voluntarily took part in a fight since Rabbi Akiba." It took Abraham Lincoln to restore the rabbinate to a place of dignity on the battlefield.

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